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Transmitted via Email

March 26, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 420-7-1

SUBJECT: SSC – EXCAVATION DURING ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

Purpose. To provide information on an upcoming opportunity.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

As part of Minnesota Archaeology Week (May 5 -13, 2007) NRCS is teaming up with the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office and St. Cloud State to do an exploratory excavation at the Keefe Farmstead in Benton County.

Test excavations and mapping of the Keefe Farmstead (est. 1872-80) will be conducted in order to gather information about the archaeological potential of the site and potentially shed light on 19th century rural lifeways in Benton County, Minnesota. The Keefe Farmstead is an Irish immigrant's homestead dating to the late 1860s. This is early in the history of Benton County, and pre-dates the City of Foley. The original log buildings were recently documented before being dismantled for preservation in an exhibit at the Benton County Historical Society. The current project will explore the archaeological potential of the site, relative to Minnesota's agricultural history and the Irish-American immigrant experience.

Project leaders will accept eight volunteers per day (Friday May 11th through Sunday May 13th) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteer activities may include excavation, mapping, screening, and cataloging objects that come from the site. Volunteers are responsible for their own transportation and food but excavation and mapping equipment will be provided. Bathroom facilities will not be present on site. The town of Foley is located only a few miles away from the site and offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner options. Visitors are welcomed to the site between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., May 11-13.

NRCS employee participation is allowed with supervisor approval. Please notify NRCS Cultural Resources Specialist, Pat McLoughlin if you intend to participate (email Patrick.mcloughlin@mn.usda.gov or by phone (651) 602-7907).

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

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